

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

MBFR-04 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 ACDA-19 H-03 IO-13 OIC-04

AEC-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 /161 W
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P R 212231Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1693

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USLOSACLANT

S E C R E T USNATO 4445

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM: NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: TEXT OF FRG REP'S SPEAKING NOTE CIRCULATED IN WORKING
GROUP SEPTEMBER 18

REF: USNATO 4444

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SPEAKING NOTE CIRCULATED BY FRG REP
(DZIALAS) DURING SEPTEMBER 18 WORKING GROUP MEETING, REFERRED
TO IN REFTEL.

BEGIN TEXT:

IT IS EMPHASIZED THAT THESE FIRST IMPRESSION REMARKS
SECRET

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DO NOT CONSTITUTE A FINAL POSITION TO THAT ASSESSMENT.
HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING REMARKS WOULD PERTAIN:

-WE CONSIDER THE OBJECTIONS RAISED BY SHAPE AS SERIOUS

THAT AN UNILATERAL CEILING FOR TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL FOR US IF NO SUCH RESTRICTIONS BE IMPOSED ON THE OTHER SIDE. THE IDEA OF REDUCING ELEMENTS PERCEIVED BY THE OTHER SIDE AS THREATENING MAY PROVIDE ON THE ONE HAND TACTICAL ADVANTAGES, BUT WOULD PLACE ON THE OTHER HAND CONSIDERABLE DEMANDS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF YARDSTICKS FOR COMPARISON, COLATERAL MEASURES AND SUITABLE MEANS FOR VERIFICATION.

-THE SHAPE ASSESSMENT UNFORTUNATELY DOES NOT MENTION A VERY IMPORTANT ASPECT, NAMELY THE AVAILABILITY OF A POWERFUL AND DIFFERENTIATED ARSENAL OF WEAPON SYSTEMS COVERING THE MEDIUM RANGE. THE QUESTION OF THE THREAT TO EUROPE POSED BY THESE WEAPON SYSTEMS REQUIRES THOROUGH STUDY. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT SINCE THESE SYSTEMS WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE SALT DISCUSSIONS.

-OPTION III COMPRISES A MULTITUDE OF NUCLEAR ASPECTS WHICH SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED IN DETAIL. IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO GIVE ATTENTION TO THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN. THE PROBLEM CAN THEREFORE NOT BE SATISFACTORILY TREATED BY THE WORKING GROUP ALONE. EXTENT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF NUCLEAR COMPONENTS CONTAINED IN OPTION III, IN OUR OPINION, WOULD REQUIRE THE FORMATION OF A SPECIAL SUB-GROUP IN WHICH EXPERTS FROM CAPITALS SHOULD REPRESENT THEIR COUNTRIES. IF NECESSARY, EXPERTS OF THE NPG COULD JOIN THE GROUP.

MY AUTHORITIES RESERVE THEIR FINAL AND DETAILED COMMENT TO THE SHAPE ASSESSMENT.

END TEXT OF SPEAKING NOTE.
RUMSFELD

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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TAGS: PARM: NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO BONN
BRUSSELS
LONDON
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THE HAGUE
USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR
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USLOSACLANT

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